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(54) Surveillance system with master camera control of slave cameras

Fernseh-Überwachungsanlage, bei der Nebenkameras durch die Hauptkamera gesteuert werden

Système de surveillance vidéo à caméra maître commandant des caméras esclaves

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(73) Proprietor: **Sensormatic Electronics Corporation**
Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442-1795 (US)

(72) Inventor: **Pfaff, Robert**
Boca Raton, Florida 33498 (US)

(74) Representative:
Hafner, Dieter, Dr.rer.nat., Dipl.-Phys.
Dr. Hafner & Stippl,
Patentanwälte,
Ostendstrasse 132
90482 Nürnberg (DE)

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Description

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to surveillance systems for providing visual surveillance of premises and, in particular, to a system and method for controlling one or more surveillance devices to simultaneously view an object within the premises.

Background of the Invention

In video surveillance systems currently available, it is common to have multiple adjustable video cameras located throughout a premises. A security operator, located at a master control panel, has the capability of individually adjusting the viewing or optical axis of each camera by changing the pan and tilt angles of the camera. The operator also has the capability of adjusting the zoom and the focus states of each camera. In this manner, the security operator can sequentially train the optical axes and, therefore, the fields of view of selected cameras on a desired location or object within the premises, thereby advantageously affording multiple viewing angles thereof.

The advantages of multiple viewing angles are readily appreciated in situations where a subject is moving about the premises. As the subject moves, physical parts of the premises, such as doors, walls and furniture, temporarily prevent various cameras from viewing the subject. Also, the subject may be facing away from a single camera thereby shielding the subject's activity or preventing viewing of the subject's face. By simultaneously tracking the subject with more than one camera, multiple viewing angles of the subject are provided and the aforementioned problems are minimized.

In present video surveillance systems, it is very difficult for a security operator to simultaneously control two cameras while tracking a subject moving through the premises. For example, the operator, while viewing the video signal of a first camera, must adjust the optical axis of the first camera, by means of a joystick (or other control device) which controls the panning and tilting of the camera, until the desired subject is viewed. At the same time, or closely thereafter, the operator, while viewing the video output of a second camera, must manipulate a second joystick so as to pan and tilt the second camera to adjust the optical axis of the second camera until the subject is also viewed by the second camera. The operator, thus, often finds himself or herself trying to control the first camera with one hand, and the second camera with the other hand, while watching the video signals of both the first and second cameras, to try to keep both cameras trained on the subject.

As can be appreciated, the difficulty of tracking a subject in this way distracts the operator from the primary task of observing and detecting anomalous situations or actions by the subject. Further, as the number of cameras being used to simultaneously track a subject increases above two, it becomes increasingly difficult, if not impossible, for an operator to effectively track the subject.

Still further, as a subject moves beyond the range of a camera, the operator must determine and manually select the address of a different camera to be included in the tracking. Upon selecting the new address, which in and of itself is a distraction to the operator, the optical axis of the newly selected camera is initially in an unknown state. Therefore, the operator must spend an inordinate amount of time initially panning and tilting the newly selected camera to adjust its optical axis such that it is trained on the subject.

US-Patent Publication US-A-45 66 036 discloses a remote control apparatus, especially a system for remotely controlling the pan and tilt angles of plural adjustable cameras to be directed to the same object. At a location remote from the cameras a monitor 8 is provided for displaying the field of view of a first camera and enabling tracking of an object by this camera by operating a joystick comprised in a pursuit controller means. A memory is provided for storing information for determining the angle of tilting and panning of the cameras. Position information of the object outputted by the pursuit controller is transmitted to control operation means associated with each camera which are thereby caused to face the object to be tracked.

US-Patent Publication US-A-32 05 303 discloses a system for tracking the field of view of a first camera in accordance with the movement of an operator's head by monitoring the movement of the operator's head and displaying the image from the camera on a monitor which is fixed to the operator's head. Auxiliary cameras which can be coupled to the first camera for scan synchronisation are however not controlled in accordance with the controlled field of view of the first camera.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a camera surveillance system and method which do not have the aforementioned disadvantages of the known surveillance systems.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide a camera surveillance system and method with multiple surveillance devices and in which improved simultaneous control of the multiple surveillance devices is also provided.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a camera surveillance system and method with which an operator can easily track, with multiple surveillance cameras, a subject moving through a premises.

Summary of the Invention

In accordance with the principles of the present invention, the above and other objectives are realized in a camera surveillance system and method wherein a master adjustable camera means selects a position in a premise by training its optical axis on the position.

Communication means responsive to the master adjustable camera means then communicates to other adjustable camera means (slave adjustable cameras means) in the system information relating to the selected position. Based upon the received information certain of the slave adjustable cameras means, automatically move to adjust their respective optical axes. Preferably, this adjustment causes the optical axes of these cameras to also be trained on the selected position. In these cameras to also be trained on the selected position. In this manner, a security operator need only control a master adjustable camera means so that it's optical axis is trained on a subject, while a number of other adjustable slave camera means will then automatically follow this adjustment and also be trained on the subject.

In the embodiment of the invention to be disclosed hereinafter, each slave adjustable camera means, based on the information from the master adjustable camera means, determines whether it it is within a predetermined range of the selected position. If within this range, the slave adjustable camera means then adjusts its optical axis to train on the selected position.

Also, in the embodiment of the invention to be disclosed hereinafter, the master adjustable camera means selects a position relative to a predetermined horizontal plane. The information related to the selected position is then such as to permit a determination of the relative location of the selected position in this predetermined horizontal plane. The positional location is determined by the master adjustable camera means based on its tilt angle, i.e., the angle of its optical axis with respect to a predetermined vertical direction, its pan angle, i.e., the angle of the projection of its optical axis in a horizontal plane relative to a predetermined horizontal direction, its height above the preselected plane and the relative position of its projection into such plane.

Description of the Drawings

The above and other features and aspects of the present invention will become more apparent upon reading the following detailed description in conjunction with accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 shows a surveillance system in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

FIG. 2 shows, in side view, a master camera of the surveillance system of FIG. 1 viewing a subject;

FIG 3 illustrates the coordinate position of the point at which a subject being viewed by the master camera of FIG. 2 intersects with a preselected horizontal plane;

FIG. 4, also in side view, shows a slave camera of the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 illustrates pictorally the determination of the of the pan angle for the slave camera of FIG. 4; and

FIG. 6 is a block diagram showing in greater detail the surveillance system of FIGS. 1-5.

Detailed Description of the Invention

In FIG. 1, a premises 1 is under the surveillance of a surveillance system 100 in accordance with the principles of the present invention. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 6, the surveillance system 100 comprises a master camera MD and slave cameras SD1-SD5 which are distributed around the premises 1.

Referring to FIG. 6, the master camera MD comprises a controller 10, such as a microprocessor or dedicated hardware, which bidirectionally communicates with a monitoring station 11 and with slave cameras SD1-SD5 over bidirectional communications paths 21. The master camera MD also comprises a pan motor 13, a tilt motor 14, a focus motor 15 and a zoom motor 16 which control an image and lens assembly 17.

Control signals for driving these motors are provided by the controller 10. The motors, in turn, have feedback outputs 13A-16A which provide information relating to the respective motor's current position to the controller 10.

Suitable drive signals to the pan and tilt motors 13 and 14 result in the pan and tilt angles of the image and lens assembly 17 being adjusted. These angles, in turn, control the position of the viewing direction or optical axis 17A of the assembly. Similarly, suitable drive signals to the focus and zoom motors 15 and 16 will result in adjustment of the focus and zoom states or conditions of the assembly 17.

A memory unit 12, such as a RAM or EEPROM, stores information for the master camera MD relative to a horizontal reference plane 2 (see, FIG. 1). The information stored in the memory unit 12 includes the relative coordinate position of the master camera MD as projected into the reference plane 2. It also includes the height of the master camera MD above this plane. Additionally, the memory 12 stores the pan angle and tilt angle of the master camera MD.

The controller 10 can read the information stored in the memory unit 12. The controller includes a mathematical processor which can perform mathematical calculations, as described below, based on this and other stored information.

Each of the slave cameras SD1 to SD5 has the same component configuration as shown in FIG. 6 and above-described for the master camera MD. These components have not been specifically shown in FIG. 6 for ease of illustration.

The reference plane 2 defines the points or positions in the premises 1 which can be selected by the master camera MD. The master camera MD selects a position by causing the optical axis 17a of its image and camera assembly 17 to be focused on and intersect the position. By appropriately selecting the height of this plane relative to the height of the average human, the master camera MD, when directed at a position, will be able to view an entire human subject if located at the selected position. A typical height for the reference

plane 2 might be four feet from the premises floor.

In accordance with the principles of the present invention, the master camera MD is adapted not only to train on or view a selected position in the reference plane 2, but also to provide information related to the selected position. This related information is then broadcast by the master camera MD over the paths 21 to the slave cameras SD1-SD5. Based upon this information, certain of the slave cameras will then adjust one or more of their respective pan, tilt, focus and zoom motors in a preselected manner. Preferably, the adjustments will result in the cameras also training on or viewing the selected position. In this way, once the master camera MD trains on or views a subject in the premises 1, certain of the slave cameras SD1-SD5 will automatically also train on or view the subject without the need for operator intervention. A more detailed explanation of the operation of the system 100 follows.

An operator, located at the monitoring station 11, views a primary monitor 11A which displays the video output of the master camera MD. The operator can also view a number of secondary monitors 11C, 11D, etc. which display the video outputs of one or more of the slave cameras SD1-SD5. By operating a joy stick 11B, or a similar device, the operator can transmit messages to the controller 10 of the master camera MD reguesting that the pan angle and the tilt angle of the image and lens assembly 17 of the camera be changed. The controller 10, in response to the received request, drives the pan motor 13 and/or the tilt motor 14 in the desired direction.

During this movement, the feedback outputs 13A and 14A of the motors provide the controller 10 with an exact value for the current pan angle of the master camera MD and an exact value for the tilt angle of the camera. These values are stored by the controller 10 in its memory 12.

As the master camera MD is moved, the controller 10 periodically calculates, based on the aforesaid stored current pan and tilt angles and the stored master camera's height above and its projected coordinate position in the plane 2, the coordinates of the position (the selected position) in the plane intersected by the optical axis 17A of the camera. The calculated coordinates are then broadcast to all the slave cameras SD1-SD5.

The slave cameras receive the broadcast at their respective controllers 10. Each controller 10 then calculates the range or distance of its slave camera to the selected position. This is accomplished utilizing the received coordinates of the selected position and stored information at the respective slave camera as to its coordinate position projected in the plane 2 and its height above the plane. If the calculated range is within a predetermined range, the controller 10 of the particular slave camera then determines that its respective image and lens assembly 17 should then also be trained on or view the selected position.

The controller 10 of the slave camera, thereupon, via its mathematical processor and using the above information, i.e., the coordinates of the selected position, the height of its respective slave camera above the reference plane 2, and the coordinate position of its respective slave camera, determines the pan and tilt angles needed to bring the optical axis 17A of the image and lens assembly of the slave camera to the selected position. The controller 10, once these angles are calculated, then addresses its pan and tilt motors to drive the camera to the selected position.

If the operator at the monitor station 11 is thus moving the master camera MD to follow a subject, the respective slave cameras in-range will also be moved automatically to follow the subject. The video from these in-range slave cameras available at the monitor station 11 will then automatically be coupled by the station to respective ones of the monitors 11C, 11D, etc. The operator is therefore provided with multiple views of the subject, i.e., views from the master and in-range slave cameras, without being distracted by having to control several cameras to obtain these views. As a result, the operator can concentrate on following and viewing the subject with the master camera MD.

In the above-discussed operation, the master camera performs calculations to determine the coordinates of the selected position in the reference plane 2. These coordinates are transmitted to each slave camera. Each slave camera, based upon such coordinates, then calculates range and, if within a preselected range, determines the pan and tilt angles needed to bring the camera to the selected position.

However, it is within the contemplation of the present invention for the master camera MD to send information related to the selected position and for the slave cameras to calculate the coordinates of the selected position in the plane 2 based on this information and other stored information at the slave cameras.

For example, each slave camera can store information as to its coordinate position in and its height above the plane 2 and as to the coordinates and height relative to the plane 2 of the master camera and each of the other slave cameras. With this information at each slave camera, the master camera need only transmit information as to its pan and tilt angles when trained on the selected position. After receiving this information, the controller at each slave camera can use this information and its stored information to calculate the coordinates corresponding to the selected position and from these coordinates and the stored information it can determine the pan and tilt angles for training on the selected position. A more detailed explanation of calculating the pan and tilt angles for a selected position in the reference plane 2 for the master camera MD and slave cameras SD1-SD5 is given below.

More particularly, as shown in FIG. 1, the horizontal plane 2 is segmented into a checkerboard coordinate grid, with each box 3 of the coordinate grid measuring one foot by one foot. The 0,0 coordinate position of the

grid is located in the upper left hand corner of Fig. 1 and the 59,59 coordinate position is located in the lower right hand corner of Fig. 1. As can be appreciated, the size of each grid box 3, and the location of the origin of the grid with respect to the premises 1 is arbitrary, and the values selected in this example are for illustrative purposes only.

The master camera MD is mounted at a vertical height H_{MD} above the coordinates (39, 54) of the horizontal plane 2. The master camera MD thus has stored in its memory 12 both its vertical height value H_{MD} and its projected coordinates (39, 54) in the horizontal plane 2. Slave camera SD2 is at a vertical height of H_{SD2} above coordinates (14, 15) of the plane 2. The slave camera SD2 also has stored in its memory 12 both its vertical height value H_{SD2} and its projected coordinates (14, 15) in the plane 2. A subject S, who is to be tracked by the surveillance system, is located at coordinate position (36, 32) in the horizontal plane 2.

To track the subject S, the operator at the control station 11 moves his or her joy stick control 11B to provide signals to the master camera MD. These signals cause the camera to adjust its pan and tilt angles to train the optical axis 17A of the image and lens assembly 17 of the master camera so that this axis intersects the coordinate position (36, 32) of the subject. Accordingly, the master camera now views the subject and the image of the subject appears on the monitor IIA. The master camera MD then calculates the coordinate position of the subject S in the plane 2.

More particularly, FIG. 2 is a side view of the premises 1 showing the optical axis 17A of the master camera MD intersecting the plane 2 at the position of the subject S. The master camera MD first calculates via its controller 10 the distance D_{MD} in the plane 2 between the master camera MD and the subject S using the formula $D_{MD} = H_{MD}/\text{Tan } T°_{MD}$, where H_{MD} is, as above-indicated, the vertical height of the master camera MD above the horizontal plane 2 and $T°_{MD}$ is the tilt angle of the master camera MD. For example, with a tilt angle $T°_{MD}$ of 28° and a height H_{MD} of 12 feet, the distance D_{MD} to the subject is 22.56 feet.

Referring now to Fig. 3, with the distance D_{MD} known, the master camera MD then, via its controller 10, determines the coordinate position in the plane 2 of the subject S relative to the projected coordinate position of the master camera in the plane. It does this by first determining the master camera's adjusted pan angle $P°_{MDA}$. This is derived by modifying the camera's pan angle $P°_{MD}$ depending on the quadrant it is in. In the example shown in FIG. 3, since the pan angle is in the fourth quandrant, 270° is subtracted from the actual pan angle to obtain the adjusted pan angle. For example, with a pan angle $P°_{MD}$ of 277°, $P°_{MDA}$ = 277° - 270° = 7°.

The controller 10 of the master camera MD then performs three calculations based on the above information. First it calculates the X offset using the formula $X = \sin(P°_{MDA}) \cdot D_{MD}$. For example, with P°=7° and D=22.56 feet, X=2.75 feet. Next the master camera calculates the Y offset using the formula $Y = X/\text{Tan } P°_{MDA}$. For example, with $P°_{MDA}$=7° and X=2.75 feet, Y=22.4 feet. Finally, the controller determines the coordinate position of the subject S in the plane 2 by adding or subtracting the X and Y offsets from the x,y stored coordinate position of the master camera MD. In the present example, the X coordinate of the subject S = the X coordinate of the master camera (39) minus the X offset (2.75) = 36.25. The Y coordinate of the subject S = the Y coordinate of the master camera (54) minus the Y offset (22.4) = 31.6. So the coordinate position of the subject is 36,32 (rounded off).

The master camera MD then broadcasts the coordinate position of the subject S and a desired range value to all the slave cameras SD1-SD5. The slave cameras SD1-SD5 respond in a similar manner to this broadcast message. Only the response of the camera SD2 will be specifically discussed.

More particularly, the slave camera SD2 first determines the distance between its projected position in the plane 2 and the received coordinate position in the plane 2 of the subject S using the Pythagorean Theorem. Thus, referring to Fig. 5, the slave camera SD2 determines the X and Y offsets between itself and the subject S position by calculating the difference between its own coordinate position and the coordinate position of the subject S. The distance to the subject is then calculated using the formula D = sqr root of $X^2 + Y^2$. For example, with the coordinate position of the subject = (36, 32) and the position of a slave camera SD2 = (14, 15), the difference would be X=22 and Y=17. The distance D_{SD2} between the slave camera SD2 and the subject S is then equal the sqr root of $(22^2 + 17^2) = 27.8$ feet.

If the distance from a slave camera to the subject S is determined to be within the desired range broadcast by the master camera MD (say a radius of 30 feet), the slave camera SD2 determines that it must then adjust its pan and tilt angles so the optical axis of the camera also intersects the horizontal plane 2 at the coordinates of the subject S.

The slave camera's adjustment of its pan angle is again described with reference to Fig. 5. The slave camera SD2, knowing the distance D_{SD2} to the subject S and the offset X can calculate the adjusted pan angle $P°_{SDA}$ based on the formula $P°_{SDA}$ = arcsine of X/D_{SD2}. For example, with D_{SD2}=27.8 feet and X=22, the adjusted Pan angle $P°_{SDA}$=52.3°. Since the subject is in the lower right quadrant, 90° is added to $P°_{SDA}$ to obtain the actual pan angle $P°_{SD}$= 142.3° relative to the reference vector V_{ref}.

Referring to Fig. 4, the slave camera SD2 then calculates the tilt angle $T°_{SD2}$ by first calculating the direct distance to the subject using the formula Z_{SD2} = sqr root of $D^2_{SD2} + H^2_{SD2}$. It then calculates the tilt angle using the formula $T°_{SD2}$ = arcsine of H_{SD2}/Z_{SD2}. For example, with D_{SD2}=27.8 feet and H_{SD2}=12, then Z_{XD2}=30.28

feet° and the tilt angle $T°_{SD2}$=23.35°.

It should be noted that any of the cameras in the system 1 can be switched to take the role of the master camera. The operator at the station 11 can effect this change.

Also, as above-noted, the master camera broadcasts updates of the coordinates of the selected positions (i.e., the subject's position) so that the slave cameras in range also follow the subject's movement with the master camera. The rate of updates transmitted by the master camera can be based on the degree of movement of the subject S. If the operator is panning and tilting the master camera MD to follow the subject, the master camera will cause broadcast of updates to occur more frequently, so that any slave camera can reposition itself to maintain a view of the subject. If the operator stops the master camera, no further updates are required.

Additionally, as can be appreciated, as a subject moves around the premises 1, some slave cameras which are initially out-of-range may come in-range of the subject and thus begin to follow the subject with the master camera. When a slave camera comes in-range, it reports this condition to the station 11 which can then automatically connect the video from the in-range slave camera to any one of the available secondary montiors 11, 11C, 11D, etc. Conversely, a slave camera which is in-range may become out-range in which case it will cease to track the subject. Under these circumstances, the out-of-range slave camera also reports its out-of-range condition to the station 11. The station 11 then automatically removes the video of the out-of-range slave camera from the secondary monitor where it is being displayed, making this monitor available for other in-range slave cameras.

In addition to transmitting information relating to the coordinates of the subject S, the master camera MD can also broadcast information relating to the zooming status of the master camera. The slave cameras SD1-SD5, responsive to this information, can then adjust their own zooming states or conditions so that the subject is viewed at approximately the same magnification as with the master camera. In this manner, if the zooming state of the master camera is set to wide angle so that a large group of subjects can be tracked through the premises, the slave cameras will also be set to a wide angle position. Conversely, if the zooming state of the master camera is set tight so as to track a single individual through the premises, the slave cameras similarly will have a tight zoom setting. Still further, the master camera can broadcast information regarding its focus state to the slave cameras.

The station 11 can be provided with a graphics capability which, based on the coordinate position of a subject, locates an icon (graphical representation) of the subject on a floor plan of the premises 1 that is displayed on the station monitor. This would indicate the location of the subject relative to the floor plan of the premises.

In all cases it is understood that the above described arrangements are merely illustrative of the many possible specific embodiments which represent applications of the present invention. Numerous and varied other arrangements can readily be devised in accordance with the principles of the present invention without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the claims.

Claims

1. A camera surveillance system (100) for providing visual surveillance of a location, comprising:

   a master adjustable camera means (MD) having an adjustable optical axis (17a) remotely controllable to track a position in accordance with control data determined by an operator, said master adjustable camera means (MD) selecting a position in said location along said adjustable optical axis (17a) of said master adjustable camera means (MD);

   communication means (21) for communicating local information data relating to said selected position, including information data for enabling the determination of said selected position, and determined by said master adjustable camera means (MD); and

   one or more slave adjustable camera means (SD_1-SD_5), each particular slave adjustable camera means (SD_1-SD_5) having an adjustable optical axis (Z_{SD2}), including means, responsive to said local information data related to said selected position communicated by said communication means (21), and means for automatically controlling the adjustable optical axis (Z_{SD2}) of said particular slave adjustable camera means (SD) in response to a transmission of said local information data from said master adjustable camera means (MD), such that said particular slave adjustable camera means tracks the same position as the master camera means (MD).

2. A camera surveillance system (100) in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

   said adjusting of the adjustable optical axis of each particular slave adjustable camera means is such as to direct the adjustable optical axis (Z_{SD2}) of said particular slave adjustable camera means at said selected position if the distance of said particular slave adjustable camera means to said selected position is equal to or less than a predetermined distance;

and the adjusting of the adjustable optical axis of each particular slave adjustable camera means is such as to not direct the adjustable optical axis of said particular slave adjustable camera means at said selected position if the distance of said particular slave adjustable camera means to said selected position is greater than said predetermined distance.

3. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 2 further comprising:

a monitoring station (11) responsive to said master adjustable camera means and said one or more slave adjustable camera means, said monitoring station including a primary monitor (11a) for displaying the image being viewed by said master adjustable camera means and one or more secondary monitors (11c, 11d) for selectively displaying the images being viewed by said one or more slave adjustable camera means.

4. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 3 wherein:

said monitoring station includes means for automatically enabling displaying of the image being viewed by a particular slave adjustable camera means on a secondary monitor when the distance of said particular slave adjustable camera means to the selected position becomes equal to or less than said predetermined distance.

5. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 4 wherein:

said monitoring station further includes means fcr automatically disabling displaying of the image being viewed by a particular slave adjustable camera means on a secondary monitor when the distance of the particular slave adjustable camera means to the selected position becomes greater than said preselected distance.

6. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

said adjusting of the adjustable optical axis of each particular slave adjustable camera means is such as to direct the adjustable optical axis of said particular slave adjustable camera means at said selected position.

7. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 6 wherein:

said selected position is in a predetermined horizontal plane (2) in said location.

8. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 7 wherein:

said local information includes the relative location of said selected position in said predetermined horizontal plane (2).

9. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 8 wherein:

said master adjustable camera means defines: a pan angle; a tilt angle; a height relative to said predetermined horizontal plane (2); and a relative position with respect to its projection in said horizontal plane;
and said master adjustable camera means calculates said relative location of said selected position using said pan and tilt angles, said height of said master adjustable camera means and said relative position of said master adjustable camera means in said horizontal plane.

10. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 9 wherein:

each particular slave adjustable camera means, responsive to said information related to said selected position communicated by said communication means, determines a pan angle and a tilt angle of the particular slave adjustable camera means and adjusts said optical axis of the particular adjustable camera means in accordance with said determined pan and tilt angles, whereby said optical axis of said particular slave adjustable camera means is made to intersect said selected position.

11. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 7 wherein:

said master adjustable camera means defines: a pan angle; and a tilt angle;
and said related information includes said pan and tilt angles.

12. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 11 wherein:

each particular slave adjustable camera means stores information with respect to the height of said master adjustable camera means relative to said predetermined horizontal plane (2) and the relative position of said master adjustable camera means projected into said predetermined horizontal plane.
and each particular slave adjustable camera means uses said height and relative position information and said related information to determine a pan angle and a tilt angle of the particular slave adjustable camera means and adjusts said optical axis of said particular slave adjustable camera means in accordance with said determined pan and tilt angles, whereby said optical axis of said slave adjustable camera means is made to intersect said selected

position.

13. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:

control station means (joy stick 11B) for causing said master adjustable camera to select said position.

14. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

said related information includes focus information of said master adjustable camera means.

15. A camera surveillance system in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

said related information includes zoom information of said master adjustable camera means.

16. A method for providing visual surveillance of a location, comprising:

selecting with a master adjustable camera means (MD, 100) having an adjustable optical axix (17a), a position in said location along said adjustable optical axis by remote control with control data determined by an operator;

communicating local information relating to said selected position, including information for enabling the determination of said selected position, and determined by said master adjustable camera means to one or more slave adjustable camera means;

responsive to said communicated local information, adjusting the optical axis (Z_{SD2}) of one or more slave adjustable camera means (SD_1-SD_5) such that at least one of said slave adjustable camera means tracks the same position as the master camera means.

17. A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein:

said adjusting of the adjustable optical axis of each particular slave adjustable camera means is such as to direct the adjustable optical axis of said particular slave adjustable camera means at said selected position if the distance of said particular adjustable camera means to said selected position is equal to or less than a predetermined distance;
and the adjusting of the adjustable optical axis of each particular slave adjustable camera means is such as to not direct the adjustable optical axis of said particular slave adjustable camera means at said selected position if the distance of said particular slave adjustable camera means to said selected position is greater than said predetermined distance.

18. A method in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:

displaying at a monitoring station on a primary monitor the image being viewed by said master adjustable camera means and selectively on one or more secondary monitors the images being viewed by said one or more slave adjustable camera means.

19. A method in accordance with claim 18 wherein:

said step of displaying includes automatically enabling displaying the image being viewed by a particular slave adjustable camera means when the distance of said particular slave adjustable camera means to the selected position becomes equal to or less than said predetermined distance.

20. A method in accordance with claim 19 wherein:

said step of displaying further includes automatically disabling displaying of the image being viewed by a particular slave adjustable camera means on a secondary monitor when the distance of the particular slave adjustable camera means to the selected position becomes greater than said predetermined distance.

21. A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein:

said adjusting of said adjustable optical axis of each particular slave adjustable camera means is such as to direct the adjustable optical axis of said particular slave adjustable camera means at said selected position.

22. A method in accordance with claim 21 wherein:

said selected position is in a predetermined horizontal plane (2) in said location.

23. A method in accordance with claim 22 wherein:

said information includes the relative location of said selected position in said predetermined horizontal plane.

24. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein:

said master adjustable camera means defines: a pan angle; a tilt angle; a height relative to said predetermined horizontal plane; and a relative position with respect to its projection in said horizontal plane;
and said method further includes said master adjustable camera means calculating said relative location of said selected position using said pan and tilt angles, said height of said master adjustable camera means and said relative position of said master adjustable camera means in said plane.

25. A method in accordance with claim 24 wherein:
said method further includes each particular slave adjustable camera means, responsive to said communicated related information, determining a pan angle and a tilt angle of the particular slave adjustable camera means and adjusting said optical axis of the particular slave adjustable camera means in accordance with said determined pan and tilt angles, whereby said optical axis of the particular slave adjustable camera means is made to intersect said selected position.

26. A method in accordance with claim 22 wherein:
said master adjustable camera means defines:
a pan angle; and a tilt angle;
and said related information includes said pan and tilt angles.

27. A method in accordance with claim 26 wherein:
each particular slave adjustable camera means stores information with respect to the height of said master adjustable camera means relative to said predetermined horizontal plane and the relative position of said master adjustable cameras projected into said predetermined horizontal plane;
and said method further includes each particular slave adjustable camera means, using said height and relative position information and said relative information, determining a pan angle and a tilt angle of said particular slave adjustable camera means and adjusting said optical axis of said particular slave adjustable camera means in accordance with said determined pan and tilt angles, whereby said optical axis of said particular slave adjustable camera means is made to intersect said selected position.

28. A method in accordance with claim 16 further comprising:
remotely causing said master adjustable camera means to select said position.

29. A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein:
said related information includes focus information of said master adjustable camera means.

30. A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein:
said related information includes zoom information of said master adjustable camera means.

Patentansprüche

1. Kameraüberwachungssystem (100) zum Bereitstellen visueller Überwachung eines Ortes, das folgendes umfaßt:

ein einstellbares Hauptkameramittel (MD) mit einer einstellbaren optischen Achse (17a), die ferngesteuert werden kann, um gemäß von einem Bediener bestimmten Steuerdaten eine Position zu verfolgen, wobei das einstellbare Hauptkameramittel (MD) entlang der einstellbaren optischen Achse (17a) des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels (MD) eine Position an dem Ort auswählt;
Übertragungsmittel (21) zum Übertragen von Ortsinformationsdaten, die die ausgewählte Position betreffen, einschließlich Informationsdaten zum Ermöglichen der Bestimmung der ausgewählten Position, und von dem einstellbaren Hauptkameramittel (MD) bestimmt worden sind, und
ein oder mehrere einstellbare Nebenkameramittel (SD_1-SD_5), wobei jedes einstellbare Nebenkameramittel (SD_1-SD_5) jeweils eine einstellbare optische Achse (Z_{SD2}) aufweist, einschließlich Mitteln, die auf die Ortsinformationsdaten, die die über das Übertragungsmittel (21) übertragene ausgewählte Position betreffen, reagieren, und Mitteln zum automatischen Steuern der einstellbaren optischen Achse (Z_{SD2}) des bestimmten, einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels (SD) als Reaktion auf eine Übertragung der Ortsinformationsdaten vom einstellbaren Hauptkameramittel (MD) derart, daß jenes einstellbare Nebenkameramittel die gleiche Position verfolgt wie das Hauptkameramittel (MD).

2. Kameraüberwachungssystem (100) nach Anspruch 1, wobei

das Einstellen der einstellbaren optischen Achse jedes jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels derart geschieht, daß die einstellbare optische Achse (Z_{SD2}) des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels auf die ausgewählte Position gerichtet wird, wenn die Entfernung des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels von der ausgewählten Position gleich einer vorbestimmten Entfernung oder kleiner ist;
und das Einstellen der einstellbaren optischen Achse jedes jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels derart geschieht, daß die einstellbare optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels nicht auf die ausgewählte Position gerichtet wird, wenn die Entfernung des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels von der ausgewählten Position größer als die vorbestimmte Entfernung ist.

3. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 2, das weiterhin folgendes umfaßt:

eine Kontrollstation (11), die auf das einstellbare Hauptkameramittel und das eine oder die mehreren einstellbaren Nebenkameramittel reagiert, wobei die Kontrollstation einen ersten Monitor (11a) zum Wiedergeben des von dem einstellbaren Hauptkameramittel gesehenen Bildes und einen oder mehrere zweite Monitore (IIc, 11d) zum selektiven Wiedergeben der von dem einen oder den mehreren einstellbaren Nebenkameramitteln gesehenen Bilder enthält.

4. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 3, wobei

die Kontrollstation Mittel zum automatischen Ermöglichen der Wiedergabe des von einem jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittel gesehenen Bildes auf einem zweiten Monitor, wenn die Entfernung des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels von der ausgewählten Position gleich der vorbestimmten Entfernung oder kleiner wird, enthält.

5. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 4, wobei

die Kontrollstation weiterhin Mittel zum automatischen Blockieren der Wiedergabe des von einem jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittel gesehenen Bildes auf einem zweiten Monitor, wenn die Entfernung des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels von der ausgewählten Position größer als die zuvor ausgewählte Entfernung wird, enthält.

6. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 1, wobei:

das Einstellen der einstellbaren optischen Achse jedes jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels derart geschieht, daß die einstellbare optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels auf die ausgewählte Position gerichtet wird.

7. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 6, wobei:

die ausgewählte Position sich an dem Ort in einer vorbestimmten horizontalen Ebene (2) befindet.

8. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 7, wobei:

die Ortsinformationen den relativen Ort der ausgewählten Position in der vorbestimmten horizontalen Ebene (2) enthalten.

9. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 8, wobei:

das einstellbare Hauptkameramittel folgendes definiert: einen Schwenkwinkel; einen Neigungswinkel; eine Höhe bezüglich der vorbestimmten horizontalen Ebene (2); und eine Relativposition hinsichtlich ihrer Projektion in der horizontalen Ebene;

das einstellbare Hauptkameramittel den relativen Ort der ausgewählten Position unter Verwendung des Schwenk- und des Neigungswinkels, der Höhe des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels und der Relativposition des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels in der horizontalen Ebene berechnet.

10. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 9, wobei:

jedes jeweilige einstellbare Nebenkameramittel als Reaktion auf die von dem Übertragungsmittel übertragenen, die ausgewählte Position betreffenden Informationen einen Schwenkwinkel und einen Neigungswinkel des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels definiert und die optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Kameramittels gemäß dem bestimmten Schwenk- und Neigungswinkel einstellt, so daß die optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels dazu gebracht wird, die ausgewählte Position zu schneiden.

11. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 7, wobei:

das einstellbare Hauptkameramittel folgendes definiert:

einen Schwenkwinkel; und einen Neigungswinkel;

und die betreffenden Informationen den Schwenk- und Neigungswinkel enthalten.

12. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 11, wobei

jedes jeweilige einstellbare Nebenkameramittel Informationen hinsichtlich der Höhe des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels bezüglich der vorbestimmten horizontalen Ebene (2) und der in die vorbestimmte horizontale Ebene projizierten Relativposition des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels speichert,

und jedes jeweilige einstellbare Nebenkameramittel die Höhen- und Relativpositionsinformationen und die betreffenden Informationen dazu verwendet, einen Schwenkwinkel und einen Neigungswinkel des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels zu bestimmen, und die optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels gemäß dem vorbestimmten Schwenk- und Neigungswinkel einstellt, so

daß die optische Achse des einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels dazu gebracht wird, die ausgewählte Position zu schneiden.

13. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 1, das weiterhin folgendes umfaßt:

Steuerstationsmittel (Steuerknüppel 11B), das bewirkt, daß die einstellbare Hauptkamera die Position auswählt.

14. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 1, wobei:

die betreffenden Informationen Brennweiteninformationen des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels enthalten.

15. Kameraüberwachungssystem nach Anspruch 1, wobei:

die betreffenden Informationen Zoominformationen des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels enthalten.

16. Verfahren zum Bereitstellen visueller Überwachung eines Ortes, das folgendes umfaßt:

Auswählen einer Position in dem Ort entlang der einstellbaren optischen Achse (17a) durch Fernsteuerung mit von einem Bediener bestimmten Steuerdaten, mit Hilfe eines einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels (MD, 100);
Übertragen von Ortsinformationen, die die ausgewählte Position betreffen, einschließlich Informationen zum Ermöglichen der Bestimmung der ausgewählten Position, und die von dem einstellbaren Hauptkameramittel bestimmt wurden, zu einem oder mehreren einstellbaren Nebenkameramitteln;
als Reaktion auf die übertragenen Ortsinformationen, Einstellen der optischen Achse (Z_{SD2}) des einen oder der mehreren einstellbaren Nebenkameramitteln (SD_1-SD_5) derart, daß mindestens eines der einstellbaren Nebenkameramittel die gleiche Position verfolgt wie das Hauptkameramittel.

17. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, wobei:

das Einstellen der einstellbaren optischen Achse jedes jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels derart geschieht, daß die einstellbare optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels auf die ausgewählte Position gerichtet wird, wenn die Entfernung des jeweiligen einstellbaren Kameramittels von der ausgewählten Position gleich einer vorbestimmten Entfernung oder kleiner ist;
und das Einstellen der einstellbaren optischen Achse jedes jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels derart geschieht, daß die einstellbare optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels nicht auf die ausgewählte Position gerichtet wird, wenn die Entfernung des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels von der ausgewählten Position größer als die vorbestimmte Entfernung ist.

18. Verfahren nach Anspruch 17, das weiterhin folgendes umfaßt:

Wiedergeben an eine Kontrollstation auf einem ersten Monitor des von dem einstellbaren Hauptkameramittel gesehenen Bildes und selektiv auf einem oder mehreren zweiten Monitoren der von dem einen oder den mehreren einstellbaren Nebenkameramitteln gesehenen Bilder.

19. Verfahren nach Anspruch 18, wobei:

der Schritt des Wiedergebens enthält, daß die Wiedergabe des von einem jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittel gesehenen Bildes automatisch ermöglicht wird, wenn die Entfernung des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels von der ausgewählten Position gleich der vorbestimmten Entfernung oder kleiner wird.

20. Verfahren nach Anspruch 19, wobei:

der Schritt des Wiedergebens weiterhin enthält, daß die Wiedergabe des von einem jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittel gesehenen Bildes auf einem zweiten Monitor gesperrt wird, wenn die Entfernung des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels von der ausgewählten Position größer wird als die vorbestimmte Entfernung.

21. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, wobei:

das Einstellen der einstellbaren optischen Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels derart geschieht, daß die einstellbare optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels auf die ausgewählte Position gerichtet wird.

22. Verfahren nach Anspruch 21, wobei:

die ausgewählte Position sich an dem Ort in einer vorbestimmten horizontalen Ebene (2) befindet.

23. Verfahren nach Anspruch 22, wobei:

die Informationen den relativen Ort der ausgewählten Position in der vorbestimmten horizontalen Ebene enthalten.

24. Verfahren nach Anspruch 23, wobei:

das einstellbare Hauptkameramittel folgendes definiert: einen Schwenkwinkel; einen Neigungswinkel; eine Höhe bezüglich der vorbe-

stimmten horizontalen Ebene; und eine Relativposition hinsichtlich ihrer Projektion in der horizontalen Ebene;
und das Verfahren weiterhin enthält, daß das einstellbare Hauptkameramittel den relativen Ort der ausgewählten Position unter Verwendung des Schwenk- und des Neigungswinkels, der Höhe des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels und der Relativposition des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels in der Ebene berechnet.

25. Verfahren nach Anspruch 24, wobei:
das Verfahren weiterhin enthält, daß jedes jeweilige einstellbare Nebenkameramittel als Reaktion auf die übertragenen betreffenden Informationen einen Schwenkwinkel und einen Neigungswinkel des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels bestimmt und die optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels gemäß dem bestimmten Schwenk- und Neigungswinkel einstellt, so daß die optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels dazu gebracht wird, die ausgewählte Position zu schneiden.

26. Verfahren nach Anspruch 22, wobei:

das einstellbare Hauptkameramittel folgendes definiert:
einen Schwenkwinkel; und einen Neigungswinkel;
und die betreffenden Informationen den Schwenk- und Neigungswinkel enthalten.

27. Verfahren nach Anspruch 26, wobei:

jedes jeweilige einstellbare Nebenkameramittel Informationen hinsichtlich der Höhe des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels bezüglich der vorbestimmten horizontalen Ebene und der in die vorbestimmte horizontale Ebene projizierte Relativposition der einstellbaren Hauptkameras speichert;
und das Verfahren weiterhin enthält, daß jedes jeweilige einstellbare Nebenkameramittel unter Verwendung der Höhen- und Relativpositionsinformationen und der betreffenden Informationen einen Schwenkwinkel und einen Neigungswinkel des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels bestimmt und die optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels gemäß dem bestimmten Schwenk- und Neigungswinkel einstellt, so daß die optische Achse des jeweiligen einstellbaren Nebenkameramittels dazu gebracht wird, die ausgewählte Position zu schneiden.

28. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, das weiterhin umfaßt:
durch Fernbedienung zu bewirken, daß das einstellbare Hauptkameramittel die Position auswählt.

29. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, wobei:
die betreffenden Informationen Brennweiteninformationen des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels enthalten.

30. Verfahren nach Anspruch 16, wobei:
die betreffenden Informationen Zoominformationen des einstellbaren Hauptkameramittels enthalten.

Revendications

1. Système de surveillance par caméra (100) destiné à procurer une surveillance visuelle d'un emplacement, comprenant :

un moyen de caméra maître réglable (MD) présentant un axe optique réglable (17a) commandable à distance afin de suivre une position conformément à des données de commande déterminées par un opérateur, ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable (MD) sélectionnant une position audit emplacement suivant ledit axe optique réglable (17a) dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable (MD),
un moyen de communications (21) destiné à communiquer des données d'informations locales se rapportant à ladite position sélectionnée, comprenant des données d'informations afin de permettre la détermination de ladite position sélectionnée, et déterminées par ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable (MD), et
un ou plusieurs moyens de caméra esclave réglable (SD_1-SD_5), chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier (SD_1-SD_5) présentant un axe optique réglable Z_{SD2}, comprenant un moyen répondant auxdites données d'informations locale se rapportant à ladite position sélectionnée communiquée par ledit moyen de communications (21), et un moyen destiné à commander automatiquement l'axe optique réglable Z_{SD2} dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier (SD) en réponse à une transmission desdites données d'informations locales provenant dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable (MD), de sorte que ledit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier suive la même position que le moyen de caméra maître réglable (MD).

2. Système de surveillance par caméra (100) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel :

ledit réglage de l'axe optique réglable de cha-

que moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier est tel qu'il oriente l'axe optique réglable (Z_{SD2}) dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier vers ladite position sélectionnée si la distance dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier à ladite position sélectionnée est inférieure ou égale à une distance prédéterminée,
et le réglage de l'axe optique réglable de chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier est tel qu'il n'oriente pas l'axe optique réglable dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier vers ladite position sélectionnée si la distance dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier à ladite position sélectionnée est supérieure à ladite distance prédéterminée.

3. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 2, comprenant en outre :
un poste de contrôle (11) répondant audit moyen de caméra maître réglable et audit un ou plusieurs moyens de caméra esclave réglable, ledit poste de contrôle comprenant un écran de contrôle principal (11a) destiné à afficher l'image qui est vue par ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable et un ou plusieurs écrans de contrôle auxiliaires (IIc, IId) destinés à afficher sélectivement les images qui sont vues par lesdits un ou plusieurs moyens de caméra esclave réglable.

4. Système de surveillance de caméra selon la revendication 3, dans lequel :
ledit poste de contrôle comprend un moyen destiné à permettre automatiquement l'affichage de l'image qui est vue par un moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier sur un écran de contrôle auxiliaire lorsque la distance dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier à la position sélectionnée devient inférieure ou égale à ladite distance prédéterminée.

5. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 4, dans lequel :
ledit poste de contrôle comprend en outre un moyen destiné à supprimer automatiquement l'affichage de l'image qui est vue par un moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier sur un écran de contrôle auxiliaire lorsque la distance du moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier à la position sélectionnée devient supérieure à ladite distance présélectionnée.

6. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 1, dans lequel :
ledit réglage de l'axe optique réglable de chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier est tel qu'il oriente l'axe optique réglable dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier vers ladite position sélectionnée.

7. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 6, dans lequel :
ladite position sélectionnée est dans un plan horizontal prédéterminé (2) dudit emplacement.

8. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 7, dans lequel :
lesdites informations locales comprennent l'emplacement relatif de ladite position sélectionnée dans ledit plan horizontal prédéterminé (2).

9. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 8, dans lequel :
ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable définit : un angle de panoramique, un angle d'inclinaison, une hauteur relative audit plan horizontal prédéterminé (2), et une position relative par rapport à sa projection sur ledit plan horizontal, et ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable calcule ledit emplacement relatif de ladite position sélectionnée en utilisant lesdits angles de panoramique et d'inclinaison, ladite hauteur dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable et ladite position relative dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable dans ledit plan horizontal.

10. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 9, dans lequel :
chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier, répondant auxdites informations se rapportant à ladite position sélectionnée communique par ledit moyen de communications, détermine un angle de panoramique et un angle d'inclinaison du moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier et règle ledit axe optique du moyen de caméra réglable particulier conformément auxdits angles de panoramique et d'inclinaison, d'où il résulte que ledit axe optique dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier est amené à recouper ladite position sélectionnée.

11. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 7, dans lequel :
ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable définit : un angle de panoramique, et un angle d'inclinaison,
et lesdites informations correspondantes comprennent lesdits angles de panoramique et d'inclinaison.

12. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 11, dans lequel :
chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable

particulier mémorise des informations se rapportant à la hauteur dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable relativement audit plan horizontal prédéterminé (2) et à la position relative dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable projeté sur ledit plan horizontal prédéterminé,
et chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier utilise lesdites informations de hauteur et de position relative et lesdites informations correspondantes afin de déterminer un angle de panoramique et un angle d'inclinaison du moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier et règle ledit axe optique dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier conformément auxdits angles de panoramique et d'inclinaison déterminés, d'où il résulte que ledit axe optique dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable est amené à recouper ladite position sélectionnée.

13. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre :

un moyen de poste de commande (manche de commande IIB) destiné à amener ladite caméra maître réglable à sélectionner ladite position.

14. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 1, dans lequel :

lesdites informations correspondantes comprennent des informations de mise au point dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable.

15. Système de surveillance par caméra selon la revendication 1, dans lequel :

lesdites informations correspondantes comprennent des informations de changement de focale dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable.

16. Procédé destiné à procurer une surveillance visuelle d'un emplacement, comprenant :

la sélection à l'aide d'un moyen de caméra maître réglable (MD, 100) présentant un axe optique réglable (17a), d'une position audit emplacement suivant ledit axe optique réglable par l'intermédiaire d'une commande à distance à l'aide de données de commande déterminées par un opérateur,
la communication des informations locales se rapportant à ladite position sélectionnée, comprenant des informations destinées à permettre la détermination de ladite position sélectionnée, et déterminées par ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable, à un ou plusieurs moyens de caméra esclave réglable,
en réponse auxdites informations locales transmises, le réglage de l'axe optique (Z_{SD2}) d'un ou plusieurs moyens de caméra esclave réglable (SD_i-SD_5) de telle sorte qu'au moins l'un desdits moyens de caméra esclave réglable suive la même position que le moyen de caméra maître.

17. Procédé selon la revendication 16, dans lequel :

ledit réglage de l'axe optique réglable de chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier est tel qu'il oriente l'axe optique réglable dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier vers ladite position sélectionnée si la distance dudit moyen de caméra réglable particulier à ladite position sélectionnée est inférieure ou égale à une distance prédéterminée,
et le réglage dudit axe optique réglable de chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier est tel qu'il n'oriente pas l'axe optique réglable dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier vers ladite position sélectionnée, si la distance dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier à ladite position sélectionnée est supérieure à ladite distance prédéterminée.

18. Procédé selon la revendication 17, comprenant en outre :

l'affichage au niveau d'un poste de contrôle sur un écran de contrôle principal, de l'image qui est vue par ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable et sélectivement sur un ou plusieurs écrans de contrôle auxiliaire, des images qui sont vue par lesdits un ou plusieurs moyens de caméra esclave réglable.

19. Procédé selon la revendication 18, dans lequel :

ladite étape d'affichage comprend la validation automatique de l'affichage de l'image qui est vue par un moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier lorsque la distance dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier à la position sélectionnée devient inférieure ou égale à ladite distance prédéterminée.

20. Procédé selon la revendication 19, dans lequel :

ladite étape d'affichage comporte en outre l'invalidation automatique de l'affichage de l'image qui est vue par un moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier sur un écran de contrôle auxiliaire, lorsque la distance du moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier à la position prédéterminée devient supérieure à ladite distance prédéterminée.

21. Procédé selon la revendication 16, dans lequel :

ledit réglage dudit axe optique réglable de chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier est tel qu'il oriente l'axe optique réglable dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier vers ladite position sélectionnée.

22. Procédé selon la revendication 21, dans lequel :
ladite position sélectionnée est dans un plan horizontal prédéterminé (2) dudit emplacement.

23. Procédé selon la revendication 22, dans lequel :
lesdites informations comprennent l'emplacement relatif de ladite position sélectionnée dans ledit plan horizontal prédéterminé.

24. Procédé selon la revendication 23, dans lequel :

ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable définit : un angle de panoramique, un angle d'inclinaison, une hauteur relativement audit plan horizontal prédéterminé, et une position relative par rapport à sa projection sur ledit plan horizontal,
et ledit procédé comprend en outre le calcul par ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable dudit emplacement relatif de ladite position sélectionnée, en utilisant lesdits angles de panoramique et d'inclinaison, ladite hauteur dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable et ladite position relative dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable dans ledit plan.

25. Procédé selon la revendication 24, dans lequel :
ledit procédé comporte en outre la détermination par chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier, répondant auxdites informations correspondantes communiquées, d'un angle de panoramique et d'un angle d'inclinaison du moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier et le réglage dudit axe optique du moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier conformément auxdits angles de panoramique et d'inclinaison déterminés, d'où il résulte que ledit axe optique du moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier est amené à recouper ladite position sélectionnée.

26. Procédé selon la revendication 22, dans lequel :

ledit moyen de caméra esclave réglable définit : un angle de panoramique, et un angle d'inclinaison,
et lesdites informations correspondantes comprennent lesdits angles de panoramique et d'inclinaison.

27. Procédé selon la revendication 26, dans lequel :

chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier mémorise des informations se rapportant à la hauteur dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable relativement audit plan horizontal prédéterminé et la position relative de ladite caméra maître réglable projetée sur ledit plan horizontal prédéterminé,
et ledit procédé comprend en outre la détermination par chaque moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier, en utilisant lesdites informations de hauteur et de position relative et lesdites informations correspondantes, d'un angle de panoramique et d'un angle d'inclinaison dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier et le réglage dudit axe optique dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier conformément auxdits angles de panoramique et d'inclinaison prédéterminés, d'où il résulte que ledit axe optique dudit moyen de caméra esclave réglable particulier est amené à recouper ladite position sélectionnée.

28. Procédé selon la revendication 16, comprenant en outre :
le fait d'amener à distance ledit moyen de caméra maître réglable à sélectionner ladite position.

29. Procédé selon la revendication 16, dans lequel :
lesdites informations correspondantes comprennent des informations de mise au point dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable.

30. Procédé selon la revendication 16, dans lequel :
lesdites informations correspondantes comprennent des informations de changement de focale dudit moyen de caméra maître réglable.

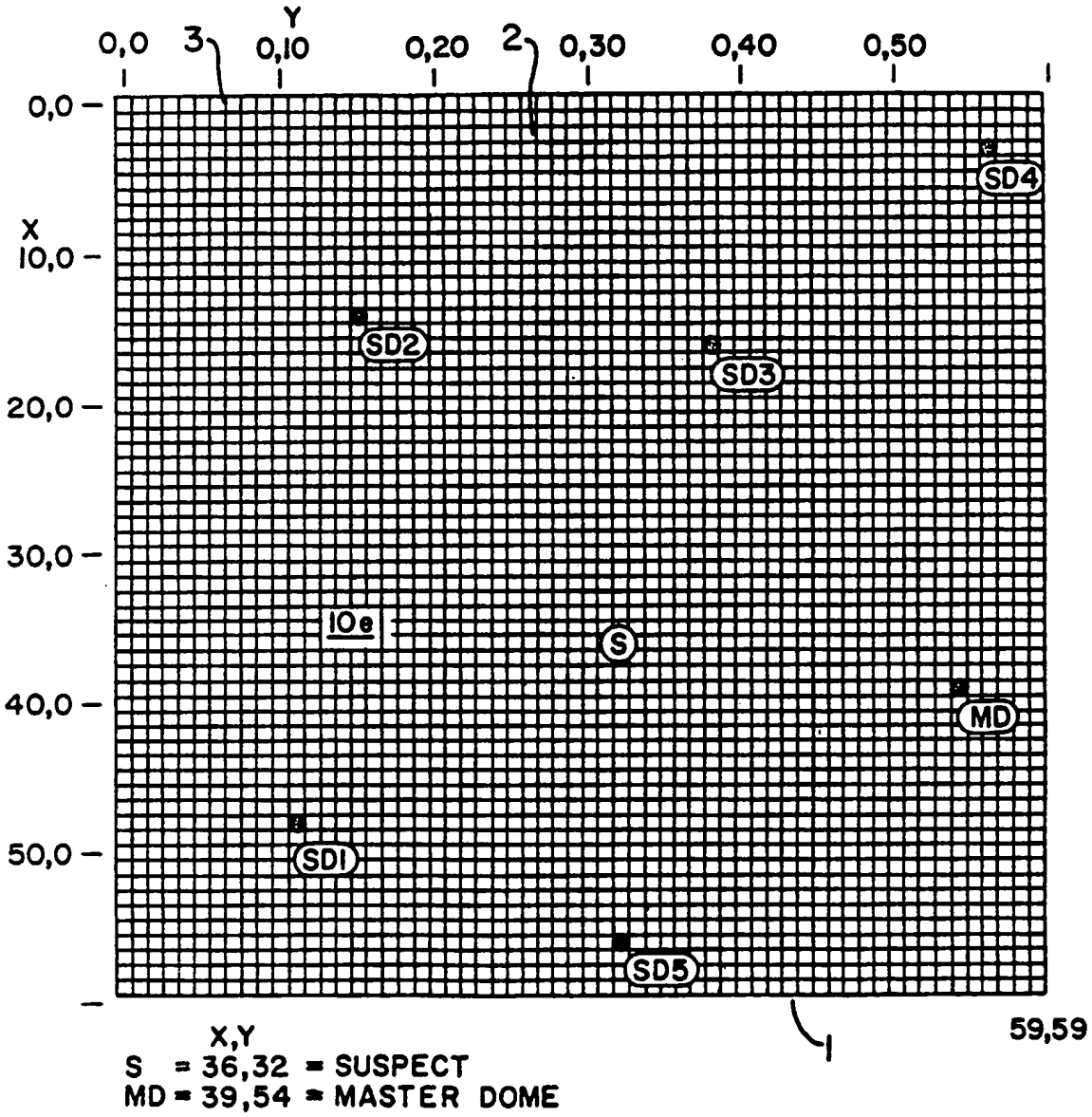

Y
0,0
3
0,10
0,20
2
0,30
0,40
0,50
1
0,0
X
10,0
20,0
30,0
40,0
50,0
SD4
SD2
SD3
10e
S
MD
SD1
SD5
1
59,59
X,Y
S = 36,32 = SUSPECT
MD = 39,54 = MASTER DOME

FIG. 1

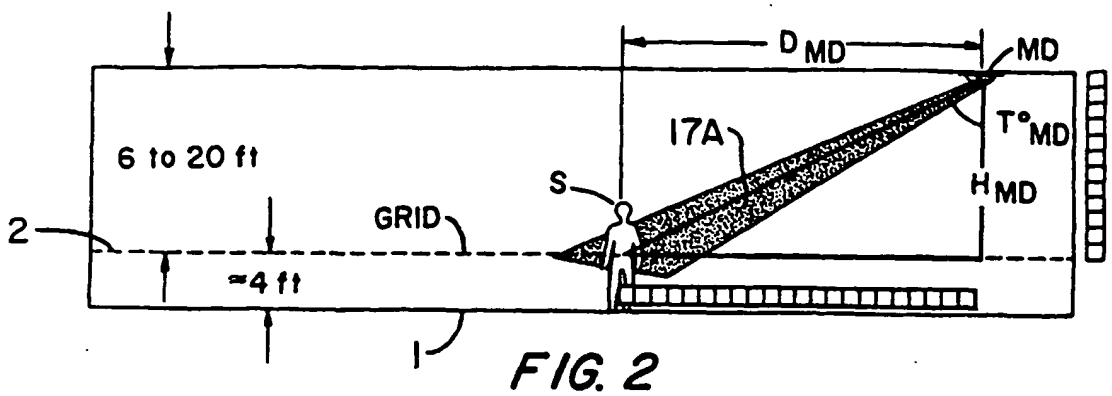
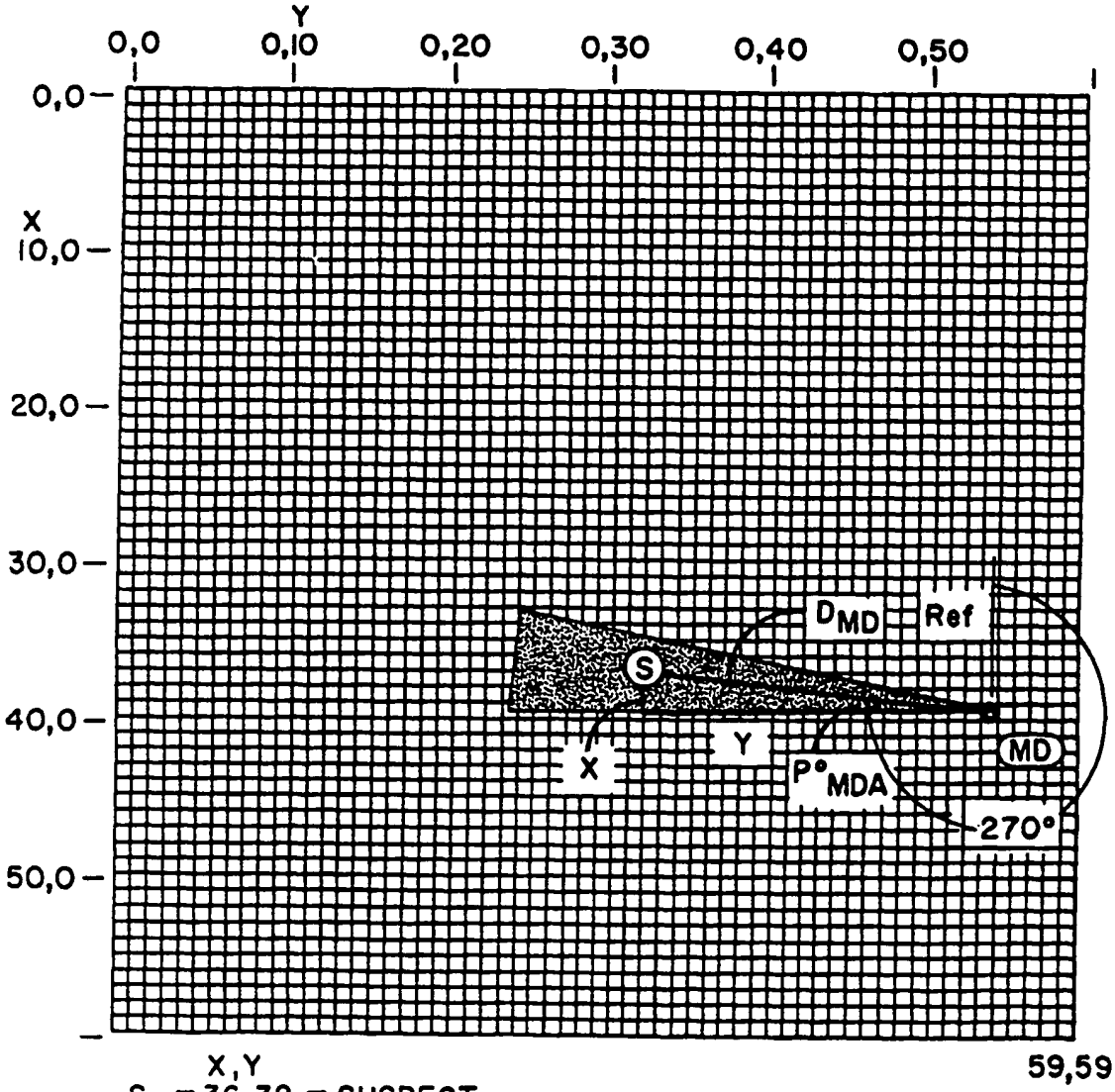


FIG. 2



S = 36,32 = SUSPECT
MD = 39,54 = MASTER DOME

FIG. 3

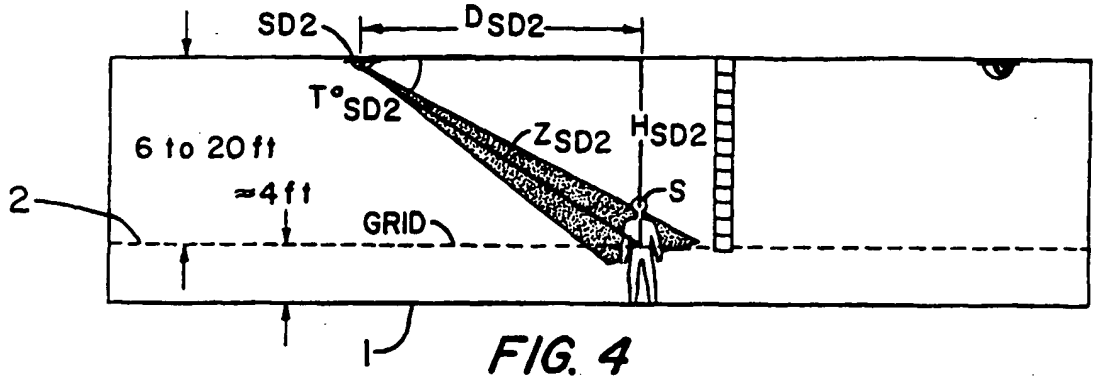
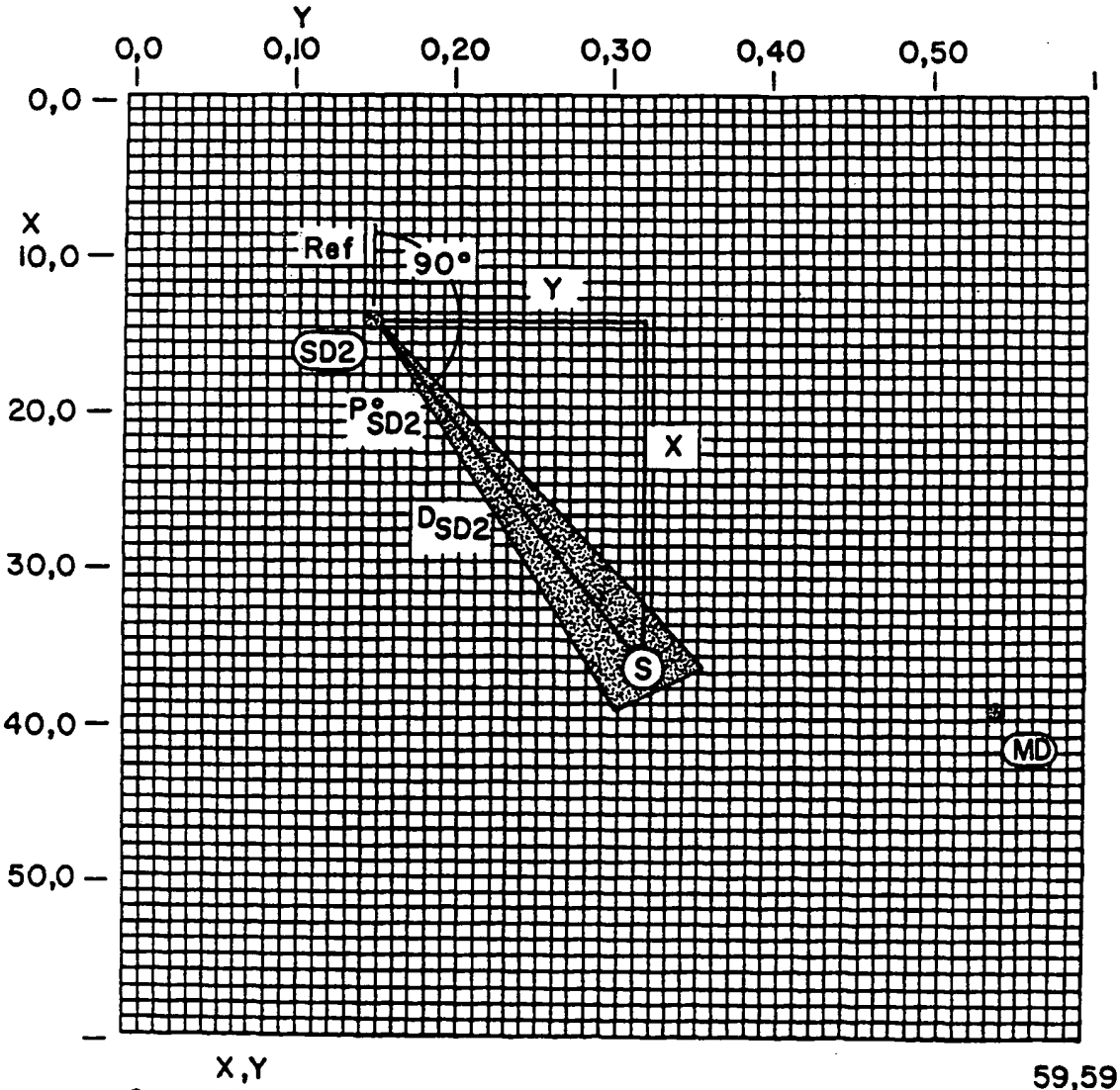


FIG. 4



S = 36,32 = SUSPECT
MD = 39,54 = MASTER DOME
SD2 = 14, 15 = SLAVE DOME 2

FIG. 5

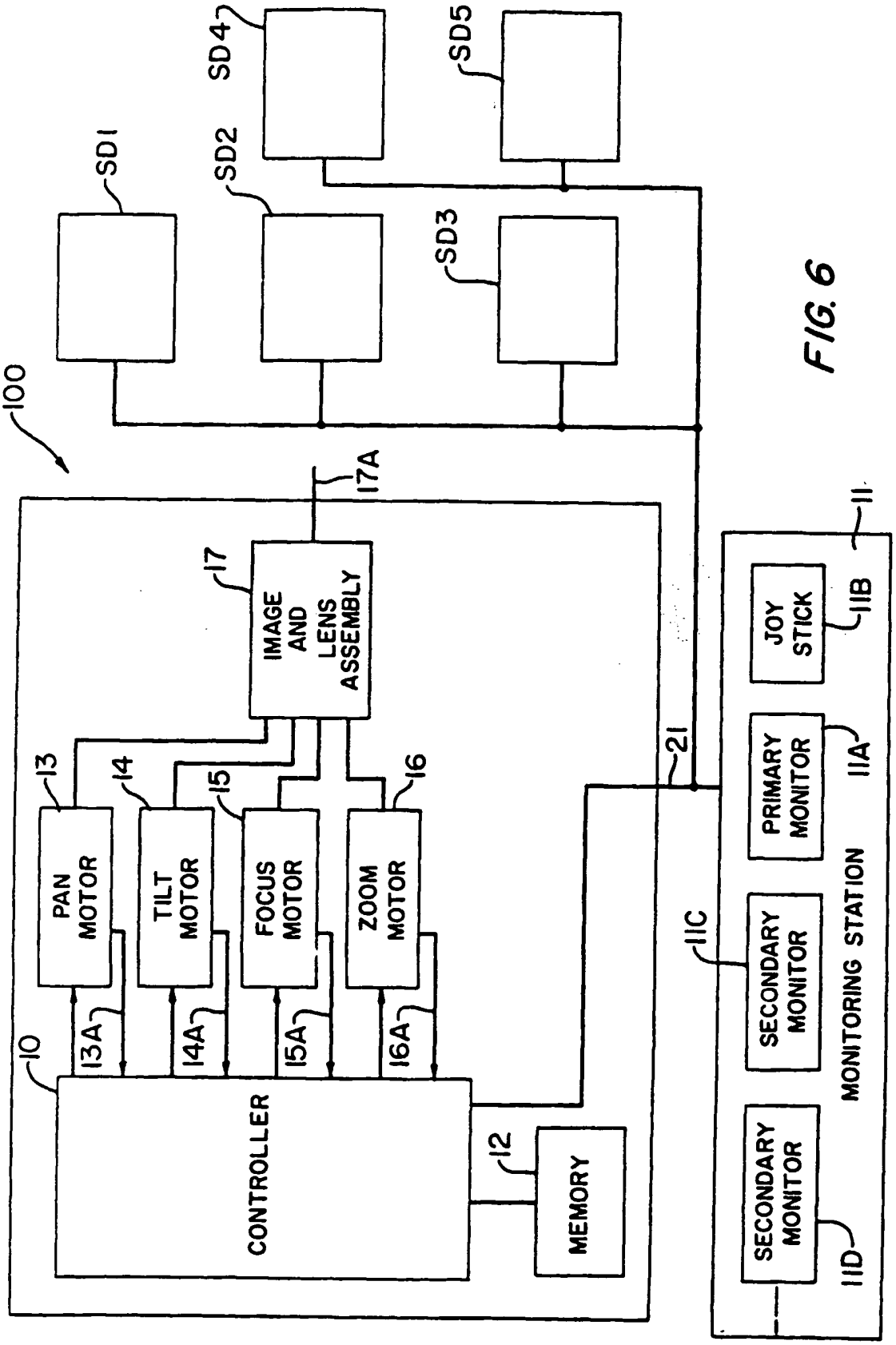

SD1
SD2
SD3
SD4
SD5
100
17A
17
IMAGE AND LENS ASSEMBLY
13
14
15
16
PAN MOTOR
TILT MOTOR
FOCUS MOTOR
ZOOM MOTOR
13A
14A
15A
16A
10
CONTROLLER
12
MEMORY
21
11
JOY STICK
11B
PRIMARY MONITOR
11A
SECONDARY MONITOR
11C
SECONDARY MONITOR
11D
MONITORING STATION

FIG. 6